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Identical letters dated 11 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to inform you, once again, of ominous developments that continue to plague our region.

I wish to draw your attention to the strengthening of ties between two internationally recognized terrorist organizations, Hamas and Hizbullah, the Iranian proxy. As I informed you in my letter dated 27 June 2017, Hamas has been colluding with Hizbullah and its sponsor in Tehran to expand its malicious activities beyond Gaza, Judea and Samaria to areas within Lebanon.

The increasing cooperation between Hamas, Hizbullah and Iran constitutes a major threat not only to Israel, but also to the stability and security of the entire region.

Some of this cooperation has been publicized in pre-announced meetings of high-ranking operatives and statements of mutual support. It is led by Saleh al-Arouri, the Lebanon-based deputy head of the Politburo of Hamas, and Saeed Izadi, the head of the Palestinian branch of the Iranian Al Quds Force, both of whom have made no attempt to conceal the growing coordination between Iran, Hizbullah and Hamas. Furthermore, Iran has publicly declared its commitment to increasing its support for Hamas. Iranian military leader Qassem Soleimani has even gone so far as to say that all of his country's means and resources are at the disposal of Hamas, without precondition, to be used for aggression against Israel.

In addition to the publicly known relationship, Hamas has been building its own military force covertly in Lebanon. Hamas has recruited and trained hundreds of fighters, mostly men of Palestinian origin, and plans to recruit thousands more, who will operate as a force on behalf of Hamas in Lebanon. At the direction of Hamas operative Majid Hader, Hamas has assembled infrastructure in Lebanon ready to manufacture its own missiles and unmanned aircraft to add to its war arsenal and increase its offensive capabilities.

The goal of the activities of Hamas, both overt and covert, is not just to gain an additional front from which Hamas could launch terrorist attacks against the innocent civilians of Israel. Hamas also intends to use its armed force and growing arsenal of rockets to pull Lebanon into a conflict with Israel. This intention increases the possibility of a conflict that could engulf the entire Middle East.

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Despite the fact that multiple media outlets have exposed key elements of Hamas covert activities in recent months, the State of Lebanon has done nothing to combat this additional terrorist entity operating in its territory.

Not only is the Lebanese Government neglecting to fulfil its obligations under Security Council resolutions 1701 (2006) and 1559 (2004), it is also in flagrant violation of them, legitimizing the activities of Hamas and Hizbullah as a result. In the light of these developments, the United Nations must remain vigilant to ensure the safety of our region and ensure that all the relevant Security Council resolutions are strictly enforced.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Danny **Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative